

Message Text

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ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02

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R 301338Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8141

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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USOECD PARIS 1382

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT NO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL DISCIPLINE FOR SHORT SUPPLY ACTIONS

REF: STATE 74777

1. EMBOFFS HAD INITIAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM OF SHORT SUPPLY ACTIONS BASED ON GUIDELINES IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTTEL WITH WORKING LEVEL PERSONNEL FROM MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE. WHILE THESE PERSONNEL INDIVIDUALLY HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERATION TO THE PROBLEM, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION AS A WHOLE (IN CONTRAST TO COMPONENTS THEREOF, SUCH AS U.S. SOYBEAN ACTION AND OIL EMBARGO) HAS NOT BEEN ADDRESSED ON THE POLICYMAKING LEVEL. OUR DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, MAY INDUCE THE NORWEGIANS TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OVERALL PICTURE, AT LEAST FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

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2. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE NORWEGIANS CONSIDER

THE PROBLEM TO BE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS AND THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE AN INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION, PROBABLY DEVELOPED IN GATT RATHER THAN U.N. OR OECD. (THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE RECENT CONFERENCE ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SHIPPING LINES MAY WELL HAVE PERMANENTLY DISABUSED THEM OF THE NOTION THAT THE U.N. IS A PRACTICAL BODY FOR THE SOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES.) HOWEVER, AT THIS POINT, THE CLOSEST THEY COULD COME TO CONCRETE CONTRIBUTIONS WAS THE USUAL PLATITUDINOUS GENERALITIES ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL DISCIPLINE AND COOPERATION.

3. SINCE NORWAY IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS OF A NUMBER OF CRITICAL COMMODITIES (E.G. FOODSTUFFS, FEEDGRAINS, ALUMINA, NICKEL, ETC.) IT IS CLEARLY IN THE NORWEGIANS' INTEREST TO START GIVING THE QUESTION OF SHORT SUPPLY ACTIONS SERIOUS THOUGHT. WE HOPE OUR DISCUSSION WILL INDUCE THE WORKING LEVEL IN BOTH MINISTRIES TO ENCOURAGE THE POLICY MAKING LEVELS TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT AN APPROPRIATE FIRST STEP WOULD BE A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF SUPPLY PICTURE FOR ALL COMMODITIES ON WHICH NORWAY IS DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS.

4. WE INTEND TO KEEP IN PERIODIC INFORMAL CONTACT ON THIS PROBLEM AND WILL REPORT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORWEGIAN ATTITUDE, IF ANY. BYRNE

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